JC13 Rec'd P/PTO 15 APR 2005

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):

Amended Sheets (Pages 35-36)

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CLAIMS

- 1. (Amended) A composition containing β -glucan, characterized by comprising as active ingredients: a cultured composition containing β -1,3-1,6-glucan obtained by culturing a bacterium belonging to the genus *Aureobasidium sp.*; and lactic acid bacterium *Enterococcus faecalis* cells that are killed by a heat treatment.
- 2. A composition containing β -glucan according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium belonging to the genus Aureobasidium sp. is Aureobasidium pullulans M-1 (FERM BP-08615).
- 3. A composition containing β -glucan according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a content of the cultured composition in terms of β -1,3-1,6-glucan in solid matters of the composition ranges from 1 to 80% by mass, and a content of the lactic acid bacterium cells in solid matters of the composition ranges from 4 to 95% by mass.
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Amended) A constipation-relieving drug, comprising as an active ingredient the composition containing β -glucan according

to any one of claims 1 to 3.

- 7. (Amended) An immunopotentiator, comprising as an active ingredient the composition containing β -glucan according to any one of claims 1 to 3.
- 8. (Amended) A skin moisturizer, comprising as an active ingredient the composition containing $\beta\text{--glucan}$ according to any one of claims 1 to 3.